

# HISTORY of RAYMOND

by Elizabeth King

JAMES KIRKHAM

It would indeed be hard to find a busier, more colorful and abundant life than that of James Kirkham. In reading about his active life one is wont to say "Was there any thing that very gifted man couldn't do?"

James Kirkham came to Raymond in June 1902, and was, from the very beginning of his life here, a leader in all that pertained to the town. He was Raymond's first regular Postmaster (Chas. McCarty handled the mail from a large box in his store in 1901). Mr. Kirkham was Commissioner, Recorder of Births and Deaths, Registrar and issuer of Marriage Licenses, Postmaster, 1st Vice President of Raymond's Board of Trade and a member of the Town Council, assisting in the building of the Raymond Agricultural Hall, sidewalks and many other improvements.

He was also active in many church capacities and on August 23rd, 1904 Apostle Francis M. Lyman ordained him as Patriarch of the Taylor

Stake. That same year he was sustained Choirister of the Raymond Ward Sunday School. (The writer of this sketch had the pleasure of being organist under him.) James Kirkham loved music and developed a talent for playing almost every instrument. While trekking 1000 miles across the plains with ox-team often in the evening after a weary day's march, he would play the concertina while Ebenezer Beasley, famous as a musician in Utah's early history would play the violin. He used to tell of encountering wolves at night on his way home to Sugarhouse after playing in the Salt Lake Theatre orchestra.

With three brothers he formed an orchestra which for 27 years played in every small and large town from Logan to St. George. Upon Mr. Kirkham's death in the Salt Lake papers it was announced in large headlines "States First Musician Dies". It is said he organized the first minstrel show in Utah. It is interesting to note that when Maud Adams made

her first appearance as an actress Mr. Kirkham was playing in the old Salt Lake Theatre orchestra. He was always proud to relate this incident although at this time Maud Adams was but a babe in arms. Her mother was in the cast which was playing at that time. Later, he married a relative of Maud Adams' mother.

Mr. Kirkham worked in the 1st sugar mill and the 1st papermill in Salt Lake City. He helped to build the 1st canal across the Provo Bench and the first also from Big Cottonwood Creek. He taught school, played in vaudeville and lectured on his trips to Europe.

In an old local paper, "The Raymond Rustler", edited by David H. Elton and dated October 8, 1907, we read the following:

"Prominent Citizens Honored. Mr. and Mrs. James Kirkham Feted in Leaving Raymond For Utah."

"Four years ago last June, Patriarch Kirkham came to sunny Alberta and located in Raymond. Last Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Kirkham left Raymond to make their permanent home in Lehi, Utah. To use the Patriarch's own words, in speaking to the Raymond Rustler 'The children have fitted me up with a neat and comfortable home and they write 'Now, Pa, you must come' and I felt that I must go'."

James Kirkham was born in London England on the 28th day of August, 1849. He emigrated to Utah in 1859. He served in the Nauvoo Legion until disbanded, going through the Black Hawk Indian War and doing military services for many years. He also did wonderful execution in the Grasshopper war.

"Mr. Kirkham helped to build the Union Pacific Railway across the plains doing all kinds of manual labor, teaming, grading and blasting. He holds the distinction of riding on the first engine that passed over the S.P.R.R. in Utah. Literally he is an 'all-round' man, farmer, gardener and hotel proprietor. He seems to have taken a post graduate course in the hotel business, starting in as a dishwasher and gradually stepping up to meat cook, pastry cook stew-

ard, waiter and office clerk and then taking charge of a restaurant."

For 22 years he worked under T. A. Cutler, manager of the Utah and Idaho Sugar Factories. Patriarch Kirkham is no exception to the hardships incident to Pioneer Life in Utah.

He knows how it is to go to work by day and by night with a little beef and carrot molasses, bread and greens, \$20. in gold was the price paid for 100 pounds of flour.

When the James Kirkham and Sons Mercantile Co. was established in Lehi, Utah, he stood at the head. The initial capital was \$1.35. When the business was dissolved they were employing 10 clerks, 1 double horse delivery, 16 girls and a lady foreman in the Dressmaking Department.

Mr. Kirkham has held every office in the gift of the Church from Deacon to High Priest. He was one of the first teachers in the Lehi Sunday School and filled that position for 30 years. He was also leader of the ward and Sunday School choir.

In music and in the Drama he was a member of the Quadrille Band, Brass Band and Orchestra and was manager of three Dramatic clubs, a Minstrel Troupe and a Variety Show. He has been correspondent for five newspapers and filled one foreign mission and two home missions.

From the foregoing it will be seen that Mr. Kirkham has truly lived in deeds as well as years. He and his beloved wife were highly esteemed by all the Raymond people and while their parting leaves rather a regrettable void, there is satisfaction and joy in knowing they have gone where warm friends dwell and loving hearts wait to receive."

James Kirkham was the father of 16 children. Some of them died in Utah and eight came to Canada.

Francis M. Kirkham was the first to come to this land. When Chas. McCarty built his store the Raymond Mercantile Co., he offered Francis the managership which was accepted and in the fall of 1901 came to take over his new job as manager. Upon the resignation of E. B. Hicks as President of the Raymond Ward Y.M.C.A. on account of his many bishopric duties Francis Kirkham was chosen to fill that vacancy. He chose as his counsellors George H. Budd and J. H. McKnight. He was succeeded that same year 1902 by David A. Wilcox with Geo. Budd and Andrew Walton as counsellors. Francis

Kirkham was taken out of the ward to become the Taylor Stake's First CMMIA president. He held this position until 1904 when he sold his share of stock in the Raymond Mercantile, resigned his position as manager of same and left for Ann Arbor to study. Mark H. Brimham succeeded Francis as the second Taylor Stake Y.M. president.

Albert W. (Bert) Kirkham came to Canada in the Spring of 1902. His brother Francis kept writing encouraging letters of the splendid opportunities there were in the new land and town of Raymond until "Bert" pulled up stakes in Utah, boarded a freight train and came to Raymond. Mrs. Kirkham came later, arriving with her two children Melba and Verland on Dominion Day, 1902. "Bert" was sales manager, buyer and clerk for the Raymond Mercantile for 32 years when on account of poor health he had to discontinue that job but he did not give up. He learned to knit and his even beautiful knitting would put most women's knitting to shame. He has made dozens of pairs of socks for the Red Cross, many sweaters for his children and grand children besides gloves, mitts, afghans and shawls. One white shawl he has done so beautifully it would make any woman turn green with envy.

In 1903 some of the energetic young men in Raymond organized what they called the "ET Club". Following are the names of the "ET Club" committee: Bert Kirkham Secretary, J. E. Allen Floor manager, George Higge, H. E. Kelly, L. D. King, A. F. McPherson, A. L. Wood, A. E. Moore, B. F. Keeler, R. O. Matheson.

Bert is the only one of the James Kirkham family to remain in Canada. Francis, Myrtle, Arthur, Winnifred, Wanda, Richard and Ruth, all left for Utah. Of Bert's family Melba and Joe remain here while Verland lives in Blairmore and Gray lives in Edmonton where he works for Canada Packers, the largest meat packers in Canada. Dr. Reed Kirkham, Dentist resides in Ogden Utah, Vivian, an adopted child lives near Salt Lake.

Rachael Kirkham, wife and mother passed away in July of 1948. Mrs. Kirkham wife and mother passed away in July 1948. Mrs. Kirkham was among Raymond's most active pioneers. She was a faithful worker in both the Red Cross and Women's Institute for many years. She served as President of the Relief Society for over nine years. She also held teaching positions in the Sunday School, Primary and Mutual Improvement Associations in her church.

"Bert" and Mrs. Kirkham were members of the first "Old Folks" committee back in 1903.

An old timer relates the following story of the birth of "Old Folks" day in Raymond. A. B. Seoville called on Arthur Dahl and related how, in his old home town in Payson, once every year, all those over 70 years of age were invited to spend a day in feasting and dancing and suggested it would be a fine thing to do in Raymond. From that suggestion grew a yearly get-together of the older folks which has been carried out from that day to the present time.

On that first honored guest day at a single table in the little one there were but twelve couples seated at a room church which "Uncle" Jesse Knight built.

This first banquet was held the (continued on page four)

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Join the Forces—  
Fight Grasshoppers

There is every indication that 1949 might well be one of the worst grasshopper years in Western Canada's history. Millions of acres of good crop land in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are expected to be invaded by billions of grasshoppers in 1949. Prepare now to wage an all-out war on these winged pests.

Join the Forces. What is needed to avert disastrous crop losses from grasshoppers in 1949? Before all else, farmers in and adjacent to areas infested with grasshoppers should join forces with their local municipal and provincial authorities in the fight against grasshoppers. If this year's grasshopper control campaign is to be successful it must receive the full support of 100 per cent of the farmers in each infested area.

Control Measures. The first line of defence in controlling grasshoppers is the use of proper cropping practices. A few essential points for 1949 are: (1) Seed early. (2) Summerfallow infested stubble fields. In fact, this is the year to avoid, if at all possible, seeding heavily infested stubble land. (3) Use guard and trap strips on all summerfallow and keep them covered with poisoned bait or Chlordane.

The second line of defence is the timely, proper and adequate use of poisoned baits, sprays and dusts. This year, the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are generally recommending the use of the new grasshopper-killing chemical "Chlordane" (Chlordane). This chemical will lend itself well to large-scale grasshopper control operations, especially where plant growth is tall and succulent. Poison baits, on the other hand, are recommended where plant growth is short and sparse. Every effort must be made to keep young grasshoppers confined to pastures, field margins, roadsides, etc., and from spreading through grain crops.

Seek Advice. For detailed information on grasshopper control methods, and concerning the availability of chemicals, consult your local Agricultural Representative or District Grasshopper Control Supervisor, or write to your Provincial Department of Agriculture. Don't take a chance. Order your chemical supplies and grasshopper-fighting equipment at once.